



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/767,815	01/30/2004	Frederick J. Murphy	1674.00001	5636
86636 7590 12/22/2010 BRUNDIDGE & STANGER, P.C. 2318 MILL ROAD, SUITE 1020 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER				
CRIBBS, MALCOLM				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2432				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
12/22/2010		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/767,815

Applicant(s)

MURPHY ET AL.

Examiner

MALCOLM CRIBBS

Art Unit

2432

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 November 2009 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-942)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to the correspondence filed on 12/14/2010.

Claims 1-28 are presented for examination.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 13 are objected to because of the following informalities: the 3rd line of claims 1 and 13 recite "the regulatory compliance requirements" which lack antecedent basis. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informalities: the 9th line of claim 4 recites "uer". It is believed that the Applicant intended this to be "user". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 18, 20, 21, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The subject matter presented in these newly added claims is not described or presented in the original specification as filed thus presenting a situation of new matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Publication Number US 2003/0088520 to Bohrer et al. (hereinafter 'Bohrer') in view of Publication Number US 2005/0131839 to Cordery et al. (hereinafter 'Cordery') in further view of Patent Number US 7,496,191 to Crews et al. (hereinafter 'Crews').

As to claims 1 and 13, Bohrer teaches a method and apparatus of secure privacy notification, said method comprising the steps: applying the regulatory compliance requirements for privacy notification of data subjects (*paragraph [0082]; wherein the privacy policy engine retrieves the policy authorization rules of the data subject specified in the query, in which the query is applied to the identified data subject; and thereafter retrieving the rules for the data subject from a policy data base*); transforming said requirements into electronic database query screens and forms (*paragraph [0031], [0078]-[0080]; wherein the data requestor uses his screen's browser to submit a request which is placed in the for of FIG. 4A in order to query a database for the requested information*); querying a remote and/or resident database for information fields contained within said query screens and forms (*paragraph [0082], [0088]*); human or automated completion of said data screens (*paragraph [0088]*); human and/or automated conversion of data screens into privacy notification human readable formats

(paragraph [0082], [0088]; wherein the constructing and preparing of the reply structure to be sent to and observed by the data request proves the conversion to human readable formats); electronic and/or non-electronic data subject feedback response methods and means (paragraph [0036], [0082], [0088]; wherein the data subject's consent can be required in which an email is sent to the data subject in order to indicate in a response whether to deny or allow or input missing data for the request); and conversion of said data subjects feedback responses into database deletion, modification or correction of the data subject's information in accordance with said regulatory requirements (paragraphs [0033], [0035], [0082], [0088]; wherein the data subject is requested to give consent on allowing or denying access and to modify or correct missing information).

Bohrer teaches a method of enforcing privacy preferences on exchanges of personal data across a network for business transactions such as e-Wallet (*paragraph [0001]-[0003]*). Bohrer does not explicitly teach encryption/decryption of said data screens.

Cordery teaches another method of facilitating transactions of business such as e-Wallet (FIG. 3 e-Wallet 10) by transmitting data through a network between various parties (*Abstract; paragraphs [0001], [0048]*). Cordery teaches encryption/decryption of data screens (*paragraph [0046], [0064], and [0081]*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of facilitating business transaction as taught by Cordery in the system of Bohrer in order to provide secure data communications

transmitted through a network with confidential or private information (*paragraph [0059], [0064]*).

Neither Bohrer nor Cordery teach transforming said requirements into non-electronic database query screens and forms.

Crews teaches a method of privacy management of confidential customer data (*Column 2, line 29-38*). Crews teaches receiving request to for customer data from entities (*column 2, lines 29-38; column 12, lines 6-33*) wherein those request are transformed into non-electronic forms (*column 9, lines 1-15; wherein the entities request is submitted in paper form to the service provider*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of privacy management as taught by Crews in the modified system of Bohrer and Cordery in order to ensure the confidentiality of the confidential data by restricting access to the data by authorized users only (*column 1, line 45-55*).

Claims 2, 3, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohrer in view of Cordery in view of Crews in further view of Publication Number US 2003/0065727 to Clarke et al. (hereinafter 'Clarke').

As to claim 2, neither Bohrer, Cordery, nor Crews teach the electronic privacy notification and feedback response is accomplished via a secure web portal.

Clarke teaches a method of providing secured messaging in a communications network environment between customer locations for e-business transactions (*Abstract*;

paragraphs [0011], [0012]). Clarke teaches the electronic communication is accomplished via a secure web portal (paragraph [0057]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of communications via a network for business transactions in the modified system of Bohrer, Cordery, and Crews in order to provide a secure communication means in which to transmit private or confidential data (*paragraphs [0012], [0029]).*

As to claims 3 and 23, neither Bohrer, Cordery, nor Crews teach the electronic privacy notification and feedback response is accomplished via a secure e- mail system.

Clarke teaches a method of providing secured messaging in a communications network environment between customer locations for e-business transactions (*Abstract; paragraphs [0011], [0012]). Clarke teaches the electronic privacy notification and feedback response is accomplished via a secure e- mail system (paragraphs [0013], [0016], and [0057]).*

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of communications via a network for business transactions in the modified system of Bohrer, Cordery, and Crews in order to provide a secure communication means in which to transmit private or confidential data (*paragraphs [0012], [0029]).*

As to claim 22, neither Bohrer, Cordery, nor Crews teach the electronic privacy notification and feedback response is accomplished via a secure socket layer web portal.

Clarke teaches a method of providing secured messaging in a communications network environment between customer locations for e-business transactions (*Abstract; paragraphs [0011], [0012]*). Clarke teaches the electronic privacy notification and feedback response is accomplished via a secure socket layer web portal (*paragraphs [0040], [0064]*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of communications via a network for business transactions in the modified system of Bohrer, Cordery, and Crews in order to provide a secure communication means in which to transmit private or confidential data (*paragraphs [0012], [0029]*).

Claims 4, 5, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohrer in view of Cordery in view of Crews in further view of Publication Number US 2003/0115468 to Aull et al. (hereinafter 'Aull').

As to claim 4, Bohrer teaches alerting the data processor of both the data subject's privacy preferences and legal and regulatory compliance requirements relevant to the data subjects privacy preferences (*paragraphs [0035], [0081], [0082], [0088]*); and Cordery teaches the used of communication using digital certificates (*paragraph [0052]*), however neither Bohrer, Cordery, nor Crews explicitly teach the electronic privacy notification and feedback response is accomplished using digital certificates comprising: a public or private, commercial or government registration authority; a public or private, commercial or government certificate authority; a digital signature encryption algorithm' a unique non-reputable user electronic identity; issuance

of x.509 compliant certificates specifically encoded via extension to alert data processor of the data subjects privacy preferences; and issuance of x.509 standard certificates specifically encoded via extension to alert data processors of legal and regulatory compliance requirements relevant to the data subjects privacy preferences.

Aull teaches a method facilitating secure communications through a network by the use of digital certificates (*abstract; paragraphs [0002], [0017]*). Aull teaches a public or private, commercial or government registration authority (*paragraphs [0028], [0031]*); a public or private, commercial or government certificate authority (*paragraphs [0028], [0031]*); a digital signature encryption algorithm (*paragraphs [0006], [0009]*); a unique non-reputable user electronic identity (*table 1; paragraphs [0028], [0031]*); issuance of x.509 compliant certificates specifically encoded via extension to alert data processor of the data subjects privacy preferences (*paragraph [0026], [0028], [0031]*); and issuance of x.509 standard certificates specifically encoded via extension to alert data processors of legal and regulatory compliance requirements relevant to the data subjects privacy preferences (*paragraph [0026], [0028], [0031]*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of facilitating secure communications as taught by Aull in the modified system of Bohrer, Cordery, and Crews in order to verify the identity and credentials of the sender and to restrict access to only those whom are authorized (having the correct key) to receive and view the communication (*paragraph [0031]*).

As to claim 5, Aull teaches the digital signature algorithm is SHA-1 with DSA (*paragraph [0006], [0009]*).

As to claim 28, Bohrer teaches the binding of a user's identity and access authorizations to software tokens and challenging the tokens at a remote email server or secure web portal in order to gain access to the users authorized email or web messages (*paragraph [0046]*).

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohrer in view of Cordery in view of Crews in further view of Patent Number US 7,493,497 to Tan, Jr. (hereinafter 'Tan').

As to claim 14, neither Bohrer, Cordery, nor Crews teach a USB key that containing encryption and processing circuitry, authorized user bound identity information and volatile and/or non-volatile memory that stores the algorithms used to query for said data fields.

Tan teaches another method of facilitating secure electronic communications through a network (*abstract; column 1, line 29-42*). Tan teaches a USB key that containing encryption and processing circuitry, authorized user bound identity information and volatile and/or non-volatile memory that stores the algorithms used to query for said data fields (*column 3, line 51-54; and column 3, line 62 to column 4, line 58*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of facilitating electronic communications as taught by Tan in the modified system of Bohrer, Cordery, and Crews in order to provide

secure communications by validation and authentication of external systems to secure the privacy of electronic data exchange and transactions of the system (*column 1, line 29-42; and column 4, line 59 to column 5, line 3*).

Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohrer in view of Cordery in view of Crews in further view of Publication Number US 2004/0078599 to Nahum.

As to claim 15, neither Bohrer, Cordery, nor Crews teach a hardware firewall that contains encryption and processing circuitry, authorized user bound identity information and volatile and/or non- volatile memory that stores the algorithms used to query said data fields.

Nahum teaches a method of securing data stored in a storage accessible over a network (*abstract; paragraph [0014]*). Nahum teaches a hardware firewall that contains encryption and processing circuitry, authorized user bound identity information and volatile and/or non- volatile memory that stores the algorithms used to query said data fields (*paragraph [0086]; wherein it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement a firewall as software or hardware based on user desirability*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of securing data accessible over a network in the modified system of Bohrer, Cordery, and Crews in order to restrict access to the data by unauthorized users thus providing security by keeping the unauthorized user isolated from the storage (*paragraph [0086]*).

As to claim 16, neither Bohrer, Cordery, nor Crews teach a software firewall that contains encryption and processing instruction sets, authorized user bound identity information and volatile and/or non- volatile memory that stores the algorithms used to query said data fields.

Nahum teaches a method of securing data stored in a storage accessible over a network (*abstract; paragraph [0014]*). Nahum teaches a software firewall that contains encryption and processing instruction sets, authorized user bound identity information and volatile and/or non- volatile memory that stores the algorithms used to query said data fields (*paragraph [0086]; wherein it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement a firewall as software or hardware based on user desirability*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of securing data accessible over a network in the modified system of Bohrer, Cordery, and Crews in order to restrict access to the data by unauthorized users thus providing security by keeping the unauthorized user isolated from the storage (*paragraph [0086]*).

Claims 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohrer in view of Cordery in view of Crews in further view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter 'AAPA').

As to claim 17, Bohrer teaches deriving privacy regulatory compliance requirements for the protection of personal data (*paragraphs [0005]-[0007]*), however neither Bohrer, Cordery, nor Crews teach the privacy regulatory compliance

requirements are derived from the laws, rules and regulations promulgated by Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995.

AAPA teaches a method of protecting personal data using privacy policies. AAPA teaches that the European Union Privacy Directive objective was to protect personal data, thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to derive privacy regulatory compliance requirements based on the European Union Privacy Directive to protect personal data (*Specification page 4, 2nd paragraph of the background of the invention*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of protecting personal data using privacy policies as taught by AAPA in the modified system of Bohrer, Cordery, and Crews in order to protect personal data from unintended or unknown access by unauthorized users (*Specification page 4, 2nd paragraph of the background of the invention*).

As to claim 19, Bohrer teaches deriving privacy regulatory compliance requirements for the protection of personal data (*paragraphs [0005]-[0007]*), however neither Bohrer, Cordery, nor Crews the privacy regulatory compliance requirements are derived from the laws, rules and regulations promulgated by The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).

AAPA teaches a method of protecting personal data using privacy policies. AAPA teaches that the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) objective was to protect the confidentiality and privacy of personal data, thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made

to derive privacy regulatory compliance requirements based on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) to protect personal data (*Specification page 4, 1st paragraph of the background of the invention*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of protecting personal data using privacy policies as taught by AAPA in the modified system of Bohrer, Cordery, and Crews in order to protect personal data from unintended or unknown access by unauthorized users (*Specification page 4, 1st paragraph of the background of the invention*).

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohrer in view of Cordery in view of Crews in further view of Publication Number US 2005/0132188 to Khin et al. (hereinafter 'Khin').

As to claim 24, Bohrer teaches receiving feedback from data subjects via email (*paragraph [0036], [0082], [0088]*), however neither Bohrer, Cordery, nor Crews teach the privacy notification and feedback response is accomplished via postal notification.

Khin teaches a method of determining and implementing privacy requirements regarding personal information (*abstract; paragraph [0010]*). Khin teaches the privacy notification and feedback response is accomplished via postal notification (*paragraph [0039], [0070]*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of implementing privacy requirements in the modified system of Bohrer, Cordery, and Crews in order to provide the customer the

ability to decide whether their data should be shared in a rare instance in which e-mail or the network is unavailable (*paragraph [0070]*).

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohrer in view of Cordery in view of Crews in view of Aull in further view of Patent Number US 7,218,735 to Coron et al. (hereinafter 'Coron').

As to claim 6, neither Bohrer, Cordery, Crews, nor Aull teach the digital signature algorithm is an elliptic curve.

Coron teaches a method of generating digital signatures for secure communication (abstract). Coron teaches the digital signature algorithm is an elliptic curve (abstract; column 3, line 10-22).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the digital signature generation method as taught by Coron in the modified system of Bohrer, Cordery, Crews, and Aull in order to further provide secure communications while allowing the ability to validate the message originator (abstract; column 3, line 10-22).

As to claim 7, Coron teaches the elliptic curve is a Koblitz binary curve (abstract; column 3, line 10-22).

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohrer in view of Cordery in view of Crews in view of Aull in further view of Publication Number US 2002/0150241 to Scheidt et al. (hereinafter 'Scheidt').

As to claim 8, neither Bohrer, Cordery, Crews, nor Aull teach the digital signature algorithm is a block cipher such as Rijndael.

Scheidt teaches a method of electronically signing a document to communicated over a network using a digital signature (abstract; paragraph [0011], [0012]). Scheidt teaches the digital signature algorithm is a block cipher such as Rijndael (*paragraph [0084]*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of electronically signing a document using a digital signature as taught by Scheidt in the modified system of Bohrer, Cordery, Crews, and Aull in order to provide secure communications by providing resistance to counterfeiting of the written signature and the data/document itself being transmitted (paragraph [0011]).

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohrer in view of Cordery in view of Crews in view of Aull in further view of Publication Number US 2004/0098285 to Breslin et al. (hereinafter 'Breslin').

As to claim 9, Bohrer teaches the data subject's privacy preference is to "opt out" (*paragraphs [0011], [0082]*). Neither Bohrer, Cordery, Crews, nor Aull teach where encoding the digital certificate to be easily read by visual inspection by distinct color coding.

Breslin teaches a method of assessing, monitoring, and managing risk management of data privacy (*abstract*). Breslin teaches where encoding the digital certificate to be easily read by visual inspection by distinct color coding (*paragraph [0072]*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the risk management of privacy data method as taught by Breslin in the modified system of Bohrer, Cordery, Crews, and Aull in order to provide the user the ability to visually quickly determine the status of the digital certificate (*paragraph [0072]*).

As to claim 10, Bohrer teaches the data subject's privacy preference is to "opt in" (*paragraphs [0011], [0082]; wherein the data subject consents to allow*). Neither Bohrer, Cordery, Crews, nor Aull teach where encoding the digital certificate to be easily read by visual inspection by distinct color coding.

Breslin teaches a method of assessing, monitoring, and managing risk management of data privacy (*abstract*). Breslin teaches where encoding the digital certificate to be easily read by visual inspection by distinct color coding (*paragraph [0072]*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the risk management of privacy data method as taught by Breslin in the modified system of Bohrer, Cordery, Crews, and Aull in order to provide the user the ability to visually quickly determine the status of the digital certificate (*paragraph [0072]*).

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohrer in view of Cordery in view of Crews in view of Aull in further view of Publication Number US 2003/0035548 to Kwan.

As to claim 11, neither Bohrer, Cordery, Crews, nor Aull teach including third party archiving of certificate for non-repudiation, compliance audit and send and receive functions.

Kwan teaches digital certificates and the recovery of encryption keys (*abstract*). Kwan teaches including third party archiving of certificate for non-repudiation, compliance audit and send and receive functions (*abstract; paragraph [0022], [0023]*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of digital certificates and recovery of encryption keys as taught by Kwan in the modified system of Bohrer, Cordery, Crews, and Aull in order to provide the ability to allow the archival of the private keys corresponding to their digital certificates to be outside of the control of the Certificate Authority in the event the user needs for any reason the certificate to be recovered (*abstract*).

Claims 12 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohrer in view of Cordery in view of Crews in view of Aull in further view of Tan.

As to claims 12 and 27, neither Bohrer, Cordery, Crews, nor Aull teach the binding of a users identity and access authorizations to a physical device, such as a USB key, and challenging the key at a remote email server in order to gain access to the users authorized email box and messages.

Tan teaches another method of facilitating secure electronic communications through a network (*abstract; column 1, line 29-42*). Tan teaches a USB key that containing encryption and processing circuitry, authorized user bound identity information and volatile and/or non-volatile memory that stores the algorithms used to

query for said data fields (*column 3, line 51-54; and column 3, line 62 to column 4, line 58*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method of facilitating electronic communications as taught by Tan in the modified system of Bohrer, Cordery, Crews, and Aull in order to provide secure communications by validation and authentication of external systems to secure the privacy of electronic data exchange and transactions of the system (*column 1, line 29-42; and column 4, line 59 to column 5, line 3*).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MALCOLM CRIBBS whose telephone number is (571)270-1566. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5 m-f.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 5712723799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MALCOLM CRIBBS
Examiner
Art Unit 2432

/Benjamin E Lanier/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2432